

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00543 091900Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
-----092345Z 113575 /64

R 091808Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3184

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA

REFS: (A) STATE 025338, (B) MONTEVIDEO 485, (C) MONTEVIDEO 489,
(D) MONTEVIDEO 514

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF THE GOU'S NOTE ON SHOE IMPORTS, WHICH
HAD BEEN THE MOTIVE IN SUMMONING ME TO THE MINISTER, THE FOREIGN

MINISTER ASKED FOR MY OPINION ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
SPECIFICALLY THE REMARKS MADE BY THE MINISTR OF EDUCATION AT THE
OPENING SESSION OF THE OAS CONFERENCE (MVD 485).

2. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT I HAD BEEN PLEASED AND IMPRESSED TO
SEE THAT THE GOU, BEFORE A HEMISPHERIC AUDIENCE, HAD AIRED THE
SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS DONE BY THE
MINSTER OF EDUCATION. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS HAD THE SINGULAR
VIRTUE OF TAKING THIS SUBJECT OUT OF THE ABSTRACT, AS CONCERNS
URUGUAY, AND PLACING IT BEFORE THE PUBLIC AS AN ISSUE WHICH CON-
CERNS URUGUAY AND IN WHICH URUGUAY IS INVOLVED. I SAID I HAD BEEN
FURTHER IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENSION OF THIS ISSUE THROUGH COMMENTS
MADE TOTHE PRESS BY OAS SECGEN, ALEJANDRO ORFILA, (MVD 489 AND
514) IN THAT HE HAD COMMENTED ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH URUGUAY'S TOP
OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE MILITARY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 00543 091900Z

AS IT AFFECTS URUGUAY. IN MAKING THESE OBSERVATIONS, I SAID,
I HOPES THE MINISTER WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE I VIEW THIS AS A
HEALTHY AND CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE TOWARD GREATER OPENNESS ON THIS SUB-
JECT, EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO ANY CONCRETE
STEPS WHICH THE GOU MIGHT TAKE TO CARRY OUT THE MINISTER'S PRO-
MISE NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN BUT TO RAISE URUGUAY'S STANDARDS OF
CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. THE OPENING HAVING BEEN GIVEN BY THE MINISTER, I THEN ENTERED INTO A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM, DRAWING SPECIFICALLY ON GUIDANCE CONTAINED QF STATE 025338. I THEN MADE REFERENCE TO THE SERIES OF TALKS HERE INVOLVING AMBASSADORS PEREZ CALDAS AND GIANBRUNO, WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS RELATING TO OVERALL US-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT I ASSUMED HUMAN RIGHTS MUST HAVE FIGURED VERY IMPORTANTLY IN THESE TALKS SINCE, AS I VIEW OUR RELATIONS, IT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WHICH IS TODAY AFFECTING THE TOTALITY OF OUR RELATIONS. I ASKED THE MINISTER WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT THESE TALKS AND THE RESULTS. IN DOING SO, I MENTIONED THAT WHEREAS I HAD ASKED TO SEE HIM THIS WEEK FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION, I HAD POSTPONED MY REQUEST UNTIL NEXT WEEK AS I UNDERSTOOD THE GOU TALKS WERE STILL IN PROGRESS.

4. THE MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS FIGURING IMPORTANTLY IN THE TALKS AND NOTED THAT ONE CONCRETE RESULT WILL BE THE FORMATION OF A GROUP WHICH CAN QUICKLY AND ACCURATELY DETERMINE THE STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS ABOUT WHOM CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. (THIS APPARENTLY IS THE "ACTION COMS MITTEE" WHICH WAS MENTIONED TO ME BY AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS (MVD 359). I THEN ASKED THE MINISTER WHETHER CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO INVITING INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION, MAKING REFERENCE TO ORFILA'S COMMENTS ON THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE REPLIED THAT THIS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER "SPECIFIC MEASURES", IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE GAVE NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, AS TO HOW THIS MIGHT COME OUT AND WE LEFT IT THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE HE WOULD CALL ME FOR A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THESE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MONTEV 00543 091900Z

ISSUES.

5. DURING THE EXPOSITION OF MY VIEWS AND MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, I GAVE EMPHASIS TO THE IMPORTANCE WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY VANCE AND THE ENTIRE NEW ADMINISTRATION GIVE TO THIS SUBJECT. I SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR RELATIONS WOULD REVOLVE AROUND THIS ISSUE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, AND THAT I HOPE THAT URUGUAY WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO CORRECT SUCH PRACTICES AS MAY EXIST WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO CRITICISM AND TO CLARIFY THE AREAS OF DOUBT BY PROVING, THROUGH INSPECTION OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER, WHAT THE ACTUAL SITUATION IS. I NOTED THAT URUGUAY WAS ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I STRESSED THAT WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES' ATTITUDE ON THIS WAS A HIGHLY MORAL ONE, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT SOUGHT NOTHING MORE THAN TO HAVE ALL SIGNATORIES GIVE FULL EFFECT TO THE UNDERTAKINGS WHICH ALL HAD MADE. I LAID SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RESTORING DUE PROCESS, SOMETHING WHICH PRESIDENT MENDEZ HAD TOLD ME WAS INTENDED. I ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE US CONCERN IS EXPRESSED EVERYWHERE, IRRESPECTIVE OF

SIZE, IMPORTANCE OR POLITICAL SYSTEMS CONCERNED. AS EVIDENCE OF
THIS I CITED THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE SECRETARY'S OPEN AND REPEATED
STATEMENTTS OF CONCERN FOR SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS CASES IN THE
SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CUBA.
SIRACUSA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTEV00543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-1242
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770259/aaaabztr.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bdda18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 25338, 77 MONTEVIDEO 485, 77 MONTEVIDEO 489, 77 MONTEVIDEO 514
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3366165
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SHUM, UY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bdda18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009